UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/369
4 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. At 1900 hours on 20 April 1998, three United States military aircraft flew over the village of Hammam in Gharraf district, Dhi Qar Governorate, in southern Iraq, and dropped heat flares over the village wheat and barley crops. The pall of smoke from the flares covered an area of approximately one kilometre.

2. At 0030 hours on 23 April 1998, when the naval light vessel Al-Bakr, returning to the General Establishment for Iraqi Ports, was at the mouth of the Khawr Abdullah waterway, a United States military helicopter circled above it. It lowered a rubber boat with seven armed men on board, of whom five boarded the aforementioned vessel while two remained on the boat. The crew of the Al-Bakr was made to assemble outside the captain's quarters while the vessel was searched and its papers scrutinized. At 0215 on the same day, the military personnel left the vessel, having found nothing on board.

You are requested to intervene with the Government of the United States of America with a view to bringing a halt to these unjustified acts of aggression that, as violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations.

The Republic of Iraq affirms its legitimate right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these provocative actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-12279 (E) 050598 050598